



Qualified Applicant Guide

to Obtaining a Cannabis
Business License

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Chapter 342, Minnesota’s cannabis law, is amended each legislative session by laws passed by the Minnesota Legislature. This guide states the current cannabis law as amended in the 2026 legislative session. Follow the links to statute provided throughout the document to find the law. If the law cited is a change from previous years and statute has not yet been updated directly with the amended language, the Office of the Revisor of Statutes’ webpage will identify and link to the relevant section in session law. For example:

This section has been affected by law enacted during the 2026 Minnesota legislative session.
Minnesota Statutes, section 342.09, subd. 3, has been amended by Chapter 123, section 11.

Qualified applicant checklist

Receiving preliminary license approval	Receiving a license
Six months for a qualified applicant to obtain preliminary license approval	18 months for a preliminarily approved applicant to become a license holder*
☐ Obtain a third-party background check and ensure the results are submitted to OCM via the third-party background check company. ☐ Obtain an attestation signed by a bona fide labor organization that the qualified applicant has entered into a labor peace agreement (LPA).** ☐ Submit documentation of the LPA attestation in Accela.**	☐ Secure a site location and submit final site location information and the name of the local unit of government to OCM in Accela. ☐ Provide updated final plans of record in Accela including standard operating procedures, location information, and any additional requirements in the cannabis rules. OCM has 90 days to review and approve these documents. ☐ OCM checks certification from local government of compliance with local zoning and land use laws, including state fire and building code. ☐ Pass an OCM site inspection. ☐ Pay the license fee in Accela. ☐ Obtain local retail registration (retailers, micro/mezzobusinesses and medical cannabis combination business with retail endorsement only) directly from local unit of government.

**Applicants with preliminary approval may request an initial six-month extension past the 18 months allowed, and they later may request an additional extension for six more months if they are able to provide evidence of progress toward licensure.*

***Microbusinesses are not required to provide an LPA attestation. Upon renewal of a license, microbusinesses with 10 or more employees will be required to provide an LPA attestation.*

Applicant best practices

- Know the contacts listed for your business in Accela – OCM can only discuss your application with those contacts. Notifications will go to all contacts listed in Accela. To update your authorized contacts, follow the process on OCM’s website.
- Watch your email, including spam/junk folders. You will receive email from two OCM email addresses: NoReply@accela.com and ocm.licensing@state.mn.us.
 - Invoices come from: NoReply@accela.com, with attachment: *MDH_Invoice_XXXXXXX.pdf*.
- Review our [FPOR checklists](#) and the [pre-licensure inspection checklists](#) before starting your FPORs.
- Understand that material changes to your application, including changes of ownership, will add time to your license review.
- Supplying requested information to OCM, such as workers’ compensation and tax ID information, promptly will prevent delays in the processing of your application.
- Engage with your local government early and often in the process.
- Plan to submit your FPORs to OCM when you are roughly **90 days from opening**.

Overview

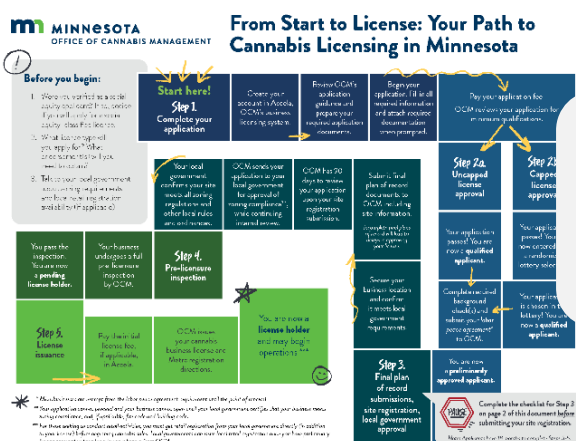
This table provides an overview of steps a qualified applicant must take between the point of being selected in a license lottery (for capped license types) or having an application meet minimum criteria (for uncapped license types) and becoming a fully licensed cannabis business.

Step	Actions and notes
Step 1. Obtain preliminary license approval	• Qualified applicants have six months to complete these steps before their status as a qualified applicant expires. For an applicant who achieved qualified applicant status before June 1, 2026, qualified applicant status expires on Jan. 1, 2027. • Qualified applicants must obtain (1) a third-party background check not more than 60 days prior to submitting the application and (2) a labor peace agreement attestation signed by a bona fide labor organization. • OCM issues preliminary license approval upon successful completion and review of these two submissions.
Step 2. Understand the process for converting from preliminary license approval to a full license	• Applicants with preliminary approval have 18 months to obtain a cannabis business license. This includes (1) securing a site location for their business and submitting final location information to OCM and (2) providing OCM with final plans of record, standard operating procedures, and any other required documents. OCM's review is a multi-step process that may include requests for additional information or documentation. • Applicants with preliminary approval should initiate conversations early on with their local government (prior to securing a physical premise and providing OCM with final application documents), to ensure they are compliant with all local requirements, including zoning, and aware of local retail registration requirements. • Applicants with preliminary approval are not authorized to begin cannabis business operations. Applicants with preliminary approval must take several additional steps to obtain a cannabis business license. • Once applicants submit a site registration and provide documents (also known as final plans of record), the office has 90 days to complete its review and make a decision on the application. Applicants should be mindful of this 90-day period when determining when to complete their site registration and documents. Applicants should only submit when they are prepared to meet all requirements of the on-site inspection in terms of operational readiness (checklists are available in advance to help applicants assess readiness). If applicants are targeting a specific date to commence operations, they should work backwards from that date to ensure the office and local unit of government have sufficient time to review the application materials. When submitting site registration and documents, the applicant should already be working with the local government entity that has zoning authority over their proposed business location and already meet all local requirements to prepare for Step 3, where they will need to receive local government zoning approval to proceed. • Applications with preliminary approval expire after 18 months if the applicant does not obtain a license. However, applicants with preliminary approval may request an initial extension for six months, and they may request an additional extension for six more months if they are able to provide evidence of progress toward licensure.

Step	Actions and notes
Step 3. Obtain local government approval	• Upon an applicant's complete submission of final location information and final plans of record, OCM forwards their application to the local government in which the applicant with preliminary approval wishes to operate their business. • The local government has 30 days to certify whether the applicant with preliminary approval is compliant with local zoning and land use ordinances, and if relevant state fire and building codes. • Applicants with preliminary approval are strongly encouraged to initiate conversations with their local government prior to securing a physical premises for their business and prior to submitting a site registration in Accela. At the time of submitting a site registration and updating application documents, the local government and the applicant should have already collaborated to ensure that all local requirements have been met. It is the applicant's responsibility to understand the specific process a local government may require to obtain zoning approval (including compliance with state fire and building codes) for their business and, if applicable, the requirements to obtain a local retail registration. • Zoning compliance certification is distinct from the local retail registration process, and local governments have the authority to limit retail registrations for cannabis retailers and micro/mezzobusinesses wishing to operate retail locations. It is imperative that applicants with preliminary approval understand the zoning and retail registration processes specific to the local government in which they intend to operate their retail business. All cannabis businesses are required to obtain local approvals and zoning certification, but only license holders who wish to do retail sale of cannabis must obtain a local retail registration. Importantly, different levels of local government can be responsible for zoning approvals than for retail registration (i.e., township/city/county), so it is important for applicants to confirm where this responsibility lies.
Step 4. Pass inspection and pay fees	• Upon local zoning compliance certification, and approval of final plans of record, OCM schedules a final site inspection to ensure the physical location complies with all relevant laws and rules. OCM's review may include requests for additional information or documentation. • OCM will only schedule an inspection for applicants who have zoning approval certified in Accela by the local government and OCM-approved final plans of record. • OCM grants final authorization and issues the license (or sends a notice of rejection) within 90 days after receiving the required information, and any required background check results.

Step	Actions and notes
Step 5. Receive a license	• Upon successful inspection, the pending license holder pays license fee for their license type. • Upon receipt of payment, OCM issues a cannabis business license with the appropriate endorsements to the pending license holder. • The pending license holder, now a license holder, can begin operations, except for those seeking to conduct retail activity. • License holders will receive information from OCM about how to set up their Metrc accounts and complete the required Metrc training. License holders are responsible for ensuring that all actions taken going forward are compliant with Minnesota law and rules, including recording all cannabis activity in Metrc. • Once the license is issued, the license holder's information becomes public information.
Additional step: Gain local retail registration (for those with retail activity)	• Applicant with preliminary approval or a license holder seeks retail registration from the local government. • Applicant with preliminary approval or license holder pays retail registration fee to their local government. • Local government may conduct compliance check. • Local government ensures tax compliance, if applicable. • Local government issues a local retail registration to applicant with preliminary approval or a license holder through means determined by local ordinance. • License holder may now conduct retail sales. Applicant with preliminary approval may conduct retail sales upon becoming license holder.

OCM has created a graphical overview of the cannabis licensing process (linked below):



From Start to License: Your Path to Cannabis Licensing in Minnesota

Step 1: Obtain preliminary license approval

Key points

Being selected in a lottery or having an application meet qualified applicant status *does not* mean a qualified applicant has received preliminary license approval yet. To receive preliminary license approval, qualified applicants must complete a criminal background check and submit an attestation signed by a bona fide labor organization that the qualified applicant has entered into a labor peace agreement (LPA). These steps must be completed within six months of receiving **qualified applicant** status or your status as a qualified applicant will expire.

A preliminary license approval is not a cannabis business license. Preliminary license approval allows a qualified applicant to establish legal control of the site of their cannabis business, obtain zoning approval, and potentially raise capital for their business. **A preliminary license approval does not permit the applicant to engage in any plant-touching activities such as growing, manufacturing, or selling cannabis.**

Requirements to obtain preliminary license approval

1. Third-party background check

Qualified applicants must complete a third-party local and national criminal background check (Minn. Laws Ch. 121, Sec. 149).

A third-party background check must:

- Be conducted by a third-party consumer reporting agency or background screening company that is compliant with the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act and accredited by the Professional Background Screening Association.
- Include a multistate and multijurisdictional criminal record locator or other similar commercial nationwide database with validation.
- **Include information for the applicant and every true party of interest on the application.**

The third-party agency must send the completed background check directly to the Licensing Division. The qualified applicant is responsible for ensuring that the third-party agency has provided this to OCM.

Third-party background check companies

OCM publishes additional guidance on third-party background check vendors on the [Background Check Resources webpage](#).

2. Labor peace agreement (LPA) attestation

Qualified applicants must provide OCM with documentation of an attestation signed by a bona fide labor organization stating that the qualified applicant has entered into a labor peace agreement per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 1\(a\)\(10\)](#). This document must be submitted by the applicant through Accela. The documentation required includes either:

- An official letter from a bona fide organization signed by the bona fide labor organization attesting the qualified applicant has entered into a labor peace agreement; OR
- A copy of the labor peace agreement that is signed by the bona fide labor organization.

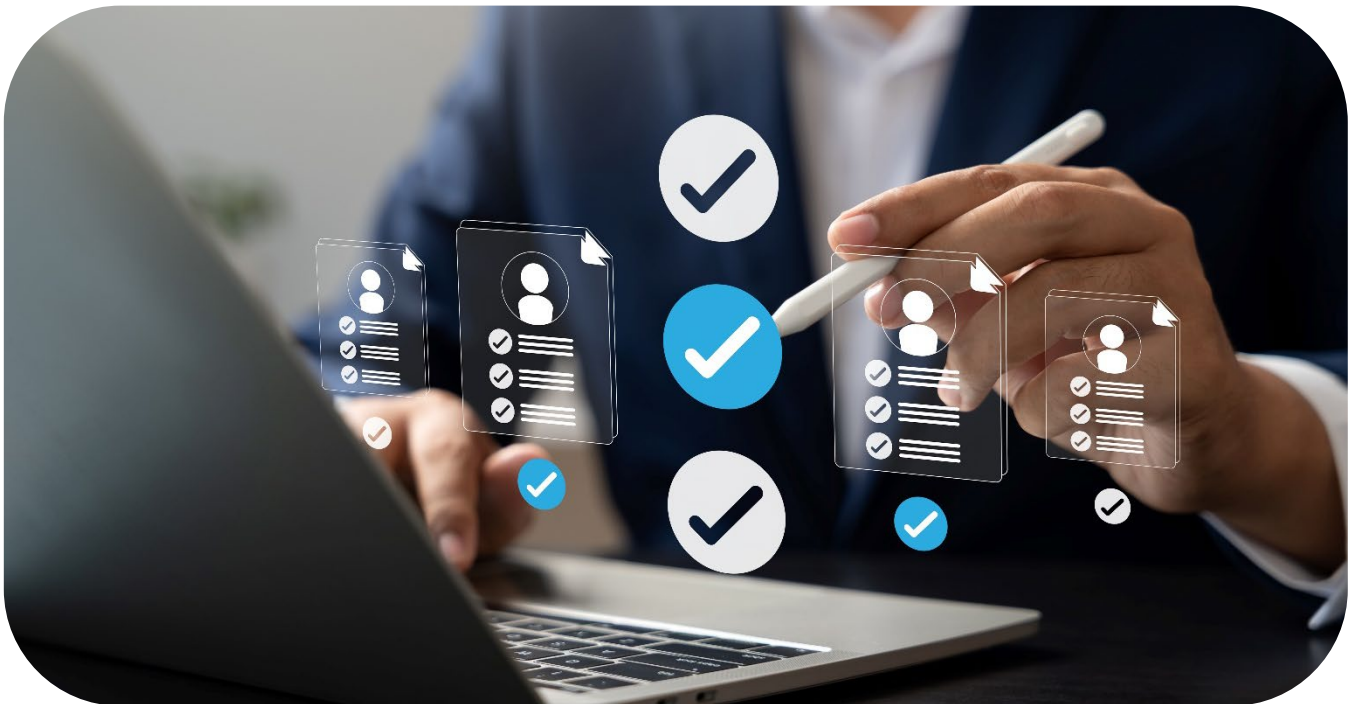
Microbusinesses are not required to provide an LPA attestation at initial licensure per state law. Upon license renewal, microbusinesses with 10 or more employees will be required to provide an LPA attestation.

Receiving preliminary license approval

If the third-party background check results and the LPA attestation meet statutory requirements, OCM will issue the qualified applicant a notification informing them of preliminary license approval and next steps. Please note that this does **not** authorize the applicant to begin operations but does grant eligibility to receive local retail registration per [M.S. § 342.22](#). Applicants should consult with their respective local government to understand the process and requirements needed for local retail registration.

The following section details the requirements for how an applicant with preliminary approval can prepare to convert to a business license.

Note: Qualified applicants who fail to provide either the background check or LPA attestation (except for applicants for a microbusiness), provide fraudulent or false information, or whose background check violates any provisions of chapter 342, will not be issued preliminary license approval and their application will be denied.



Step 2: Understand the process for converting from preliminary license approval to a license

Key points

Preliminary license approval does not authorize an applicant to begin operations. After receiving preliminary license approval, applicants must take several steps to obtain a cannabis business license. Applicants with preliminary license approval have 18 months to obtain a cannabis business license. **Applicants with preliminary approval are eligible to request an extension.**

Requirements to receive a cannabis business license

Upon obtaining preliminary license approval, there are several steps an applicant must take to convert the preliminary license approval to a cannabis business license and begin operations.

Under state law [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6](#), applicants seeking to convert preliminary license approval to a cannabis business license **will be required to:**

1. Submit the site location for their cannabis business.
2. Update their application with final plans of record, including business, operations, and security plans, along with finalized standard operating procedures for accounting, inventory control, quality assurance, and employee training. OCM will review the final plans of record and require changes if any are deficient or not compliant with statute or rule.
3. Receive zoning compliance certification from the local government in which they wish to operate their business, verifying that they are compliant with all relevant local zoning ordinances and state fire code and building code.
4. Schedule and pass a site inspection conducted by OCM.
5. Pay the license fee in Accela.

Given the requirement that cannabis business applications receive local approval during the application process, applicants are strongly encouraged to initiate conversations with their respective local governments as early as possible to inform their planning and business decisions.

Local retail registration

For preliminarily approved applicants or license holders who intend to operate a retail store (retailer, medical cannabis combination business, microbusiness, and mezzobusiness license types), applicants should ensure their local government intends to grant a local retail registration per [M.S. § 342.22, subd. 1](#), especially in jurisdictions where local governments have implemented a limit on the number of retail registrations.

Applicants/license holders seeking retail registration are responsible for the risks associated with securing an appropriately zoned business facility and OCM-issued license/endorsements if they proceed without guarantee of local retail registration. Applicants should review Step 3 for more information about the role of local governments in the approval process.

Locations within Indian Country

Under [M.S. § 3.9228](#) the state of Minnesota may enter a compact or cooperative agreement with Tribal governments to address jurisdictional issues related to the medical and adult-use cannabis industries. The state has completed negotiations with nine of the 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations sharing territory with Minnesota. For a link to each agreement, visit [OCM's Tribal Nations webpage](#).

OCM is prohibited from issuing state cannabis licenses to businesses proposed to operate in Indian Country unless the business has obtained consent from the Tribal Nation with jurisdiction over Indian Country where the business will be located. Each of the nations with which the state has entered into a compact or cooperative agreement have explicitly stated in the compacts and cooperative agreement that they will not consent to the state licensing a cannabis business in Indian Country. Tribal Nations hold the sole authority to license Tribal cannabis businesses on Tribal lands, separate from OCM's licensing authority. Applicants must perform their own due diligence, including seeking business and legal advice, on whether their proposed business site is in Indian Country, and subject to the terms of a compact or cooperative agreement. You can also visit the Minnesota Department of Transportation's website which has a [Tribal Map Application](#).

Final plans of record submission

Once preliminarily approved and upon securing a site location, applicants must submit detailed final plans of record for their cannabis business to OCM. These forms document finalized site and operational details and must be submitted and approved before a pre-licensure inspection can be scheduled and a license issued per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6](#).

OCM has issued [Guidance Memo GM-2025-01](#) with important information on how to successfully complete your final plans of record. It is important to review this document before submitting your final plans of record.

As businesses prepare to open, they should incorporate the full 90-day review process into their planning, as Minnesota law allows the office up to 90 days to issue final authorization after receiving complete site information and required background checks. As a result, applicants are encouraged to submit when they are sufficiently prepared for inspection and operational launch, while building in adequate time for final regulatory review under the requirements set in [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(d\)](#). Review pre-license inspection lists on the [Preparing to Open webpage](#) to learn more about questions inspectors may ask.

Submission process

1. OCM will email preliminarily approved applicants a link to online forms for each required final plan of record.
2. Applicants must complete OCM's online forms.
3. Once completed, a PDF copy of the form will be automatically sent to the applicant's email.
4. Applicants must register their site within Accela, even if this information was already provided during the initial application.
5. As part of the site review process, applicants are required to upload the PDF(s) of their final site plan(s). If applicants are registering more than one site, they are required to upload the required documents to each site to allow each local government to have access.
6. For detailed instructions on completing final plans of record or uploading revised final plans of record, view OCM's [User Guide — Creation and Submission of a Cannabis Business License Application Using Accela](#).

Note: Failure to upload the PDF(s) to the correct site in Accela will result in the final plans of record being considered incomplete. Word documents should not be submitted to Accela.

Required final plans of record

Preliminarily approved applicants must complete and submit the following final plans of record, as applicable to their business operations:

1. Site, Security, and Operations Plan
 - Including facility diagram(s)
2. Inventory Control and Diversion Prevention Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
3. Quality Assurance Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
4. Accounting and Tax Compliance Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Additional forms for specific license types or activities

Additional documentation is required for applicants planning to engage in specific business activities. Applicants for a delivery service governed by [M.S. § 342.41, subd. 6](#) or transporter license under [M.S. § 342.35, subd. 2](#), or a microbusiness, mezzobusiness, manufacturer, or medical cannabis combination business planning to transport products, must submit:

1. Vehicle Disclosure Form
2. Surety bond (not required for delivery service license applicants)

Applicants for manufacturer business licenses, or for a microbusiness, mezzobusiness, or medical cannabis combination business planning to manufacture cannabinoids by extraction, concentration, or conversion processes must also submit:

1. Inspection certificates issued by an independent third-party industrial hygienist or professional engineer per [M.S. § 342.26, subd. 3\(f\)](#).

Ownership or control structure changes

Please refer to OCM's [Making Cannabis Business Changes webpage](#) to learn more.

Endorsements

At the point of submitting their updated application documents (also known as final plans of record), applicants must indicate which cannabis business endorsement types they are seeking. Endorsements will be granted to applicants with preliminary approval at the same time they are awarded their license, following the successful submission of an updated application and a passing site inspection. Applicants should only submit final plans of record for endorsement types that the business is ready to be inspected and licensed for. Applicants can apply for additional endorsements after licensure by submitting the required documentation with a new or updated site registration.

OCM authority to revoke preliminary approval

OCM has statutory authority to revoke preliminary license approval if it determines that an applicant is ineligible for a license. Please review [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 10](#) for more information.

Step 3: Obtain local government approval

Key points

- When an applicant with preliminary license approval provides OCM with a final site location and updated final application documents, OCM will share that application with the applicant's local government. The local government has 30 days to review the application and certify or deny whether the preliminarily approved applicant is compliant with local zoning ordinances, and if applicable, state fire and building code.
- Applicants with preliminary license approval are strongly encouraged to begin building a relationship with their local government as early as possible.
- Preliminarily approved applicants **should not submit a site for approval** until they are within 90 days of being ready to open their business and begin operations, to ensure they are prepared for the pre-licensure inspection. Applicants should expect that it may take up to 90 days after they submit their materials for a determination to be made on their application. At the time of submitting their site, the applicant should have worked with their local government to understand and complete all the necessary requirements to comply with zoning ordinances, land use considerations, and if applicable, received building and fire code certifications.
- Applicants with preliminary license approval for a cannabis retail license, along with microbusiness and mezzobusiness applicants with preliminary license approval seeking a retail endorsement, should discuss the retail registration process with their local government and ensure their locality intends to grant a retail registration.

Local government zoning compliance certification

Once a preliminarily approved applicant submits their final site location and updated application documents, OCM will share the application with the respective local government to certify compliance with local zoning ordinances and, if applicable, state fire code and building code per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(b\)\(1\)](#). Local governments must respond within 30 days of receiving the application, per [M.S. § 342.13\(e\)](#), and will use [Accela](#) to complete this process. For more information on this process, please refer to this guide: [Local Governments - Reviewing Zoning Compliance Certification on Accela](#).

Preliminarily approved applicants should make sure that the local government they wish to operate their business in is aware that OCM will forward their business application to them, and that they will then have 30 days to review and either certify compliance or inform OCM that the proposed business does not meet local zoning and land use laws. Preliminarily approved applicants should remain in close communication with their local government throughout the application process and make sure they are prepared to review their application and respond to OCM within 30 days as required by [M.S. § 342.13\(e\)](#).

If local government certifies compliance → OCM will notify the preliminarily approved applicant and schedule a site inspection, if the applicant's final plans of record are approved under the requirements of [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(b\)\(2\)](#).

If local government certifies non-compliance → OCM will notify the preliminarily approved applicant per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(d\)](#), who must either find a new location or work with their local government to become compliant. Applicants will retain their preliminary approval status. Applicants proposing a new site location must submit the new site and updated application materials. If issues at the original location have been resolved in coordination with the local government, applicants should email local.licensing.ocm@state.mn.us to request OCM resubmit their site to their local government.

Applicants with preliminary approval are not tied to a specific location, so if an applicant is unable to secure local zoning certification in a specific jurisdiction, they can seek licensure in a different jurisdiction under the same preliminary approval status.

Building a relationship with your local government

Local governments have the authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of cannabis businesses within their jurisdiction per [M.S. § 342.13\(c\)](#). Relevant local ordinances—laying out zoning requirements and the retail registration processes—and business participation can change frequently, making this information highly dynamic and difficult to verify in real time. OCM does not track this information across different municipalities, and applicants are encouraged to make contact early with the local government where they are interested in locating to understand their requirements. Local ordinances are available through the [Minnesota State Law Library Ordinance Search](#).

Applicants should discuss matters including setbacks and buffer zones, odor mitigation, aesthetic requirements, fire and/or building code inspections, and signage restrictions. This step is especially important prior to securing a physical building. Possible questions that applicants can ask their local government include the following (these are suggestions rather than an exhaustive list and should not be interpreted as legal advice):

- I am interested in operating and conducting [specific business activity/ies] at [specific address] – would this be compliant with zoning ordinances?
- Do I need to schedule a fire/building code inspection? If so, how should I do that and which department do I need to connect with?
- If this entity does not certify state and fire building code, who can I consult?
- What kind of records do you need from me as a potential business owner?
- Are there building permits required prior to operating at this location for this business activity?
- How do I obtain a certificate of occupancy, if required? Could other permits be required?
- Which office or staff member will be responsible for zoning compliance certification?
- Is the same office/staff member or local government responsible for issuing retail registration?
- Is there a limit on the number of retail registrations? What is the process for granting them?
- Are there other things I should know about operating a cannabis business in this jurisdiction?



Local retail registration for cannabis sales

Cannabis retailer businesses, along with microbusinesses, mezzobusinesses, and medical cannabis combination businesses with a retail endorsement, must receive a retail registration from their local government in addition to an OCM license before beginning cannabis sales per [M.S. § 342.22, subd. 1](#). Cities and townships can provide consent to their county to manage retail registration, per state law. This may impact the entity that preliminarily approved applicants are engaging with.

Retail registration is distinct from zoning certification, and the two processes can be managed by different levels of government. **Local zoning certification does not guarantee a retail registration.**

Per state law, local governments may limit, by ordinance, the number of retail registrations they issue as long as they issue no fewer than one registration for every 12,500 residents as established by [M.S. § 342.13\(g\)](#). Local governments may not limit the number of retail registrations for medical cannabis combination businesses and lower-potency hemp edible retailers. Local governments may issue retail registration to an applicant with preliminary license approval, or to a business with full licensure under [M.S. § 342.22](#), subd. 1.

Local governments that limit retail registrations may adopt different methods of implementing an application process to accommodate this timing. OCM encourages preliminarily approved applicants to learn the retail registration process of their local government, before making any investments or decisions to build out a business where they may not be allowed to operate due to the lack of available registrations. The process a local unit of government will use to determine who gets a registration will differ in each jurisdiction and can range from the use of a lottery, a first-come/first-served model, a merit-based scoring system, etc. Applicants with preliminary approval are responsible for any risks associated with securing a physical location without guarantee of local retail registration (for example, entering a lease does not guarantee you will receive local approval). OCM does not track retail registration information across different municipalities, nor maintain a list of municipalities that are currently accepting retail registrations for cannabis businesses.

Please review the [Guide for Local Governments on Adult-Use Cannabis and Lower Potency Hemp Edible Licenses](#) as well as [M.S. § 342.22](#) for more information about the local retail registration process.

Applicants with preliminary approval are not tied to a specific location, so if an applicant is unable to secure local retail registration in a specific jurisdiction, they can seek licensure in a different jurisdiction under the same preliminary approval status.

Step 4: Pass inspection and pay fees

Key points

- After receiving local zoning compliance certification and receiving approval on final plans of record, an applicant with preliminary approval must pass an OCM site inspection before they receive their license. If an applicant with preliminary approval fails their site inspection, they must take steps to remedy any issues identified and schedule another site inspection.
- Upon a passing site inspection, an applicant with preliminary approval, now a pending license holder, must pay the license fee for their respective license type to receive their license.
- OCM will issue a license holder their license digitally.
- License holders who wish to participate in the retail sale of cannabis must receive a retail registration from their local government in addition to their cannabis business license before they can begin cannabis sales.

Site inspection

Once a local government certifies that a preliminarily approved applicant is compliant with local zoning and land use ordinances, and OCM has verified that the final plans of record are complete and compliant with statute and rule, OCM will reach out to the applicant to schedule a site inspection per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(b\)\(1\)–\(2\)](#). OCM staff will inspect the applicant's business location to ensure compliance with all relevant local and state laws and rules. Applicants with preliminary approval can only receive a license once they have successfully passed a site inspection.

Applicants can ensure they are ready for their pre-license inspection by reviewing the pre-license inspection list for their license type on the [Preparing to Open webpage](#) to view the list of questions OCM inspectors may ask.

If a preliminarily approved applicant passes site inspection → OCM will notify the applicant, now a pending license holder, that they have passed their site inspection and provide instructions on paying the license fee[†] in Accela as per [M.S. § 342.14, subd. 6\(b\)\(3\)](#). Upon receipt of payment, OCM will notify the license holder through Accela, where they can download a digital copy of their license and begin the Metrc registration process.

[†] *Microbusiness applicants do not owe an initial license fee at time of licensure, so once they have passed their site inspection, they will receive instructions on how to download a digital copy of their license and register in Metrc.*

If a preliminarily approved applicant does not pass site inspection → OCM will notify the applicant that they have not passed their site inspection. The applicant must take steps to remedy any issues identified by the OCM inspector and schedule another site inspection. OCM inspectors will work closely with applicants to identify all requirements necessary to pass a site inspection.

License fees

Before receiving a license, pending license holders must pay an initial license fee. Per state law, the initial license fee shall include the fee for the initial issuance of the license and the first annual renewal. License holders must pay the renewal fee at the time of the second renewal and each subsequent annual renewal thereafter. All license fees are nonrefundable under [M.S. § 342.11\(a\)](#).

License Type	Initial License Fee	Renewal License Fee
Microbusiness	\$0	\$2,000
Mezzobusiness	\$5,000	\$10,000
Cultivator	\$20,000	\$30,000
Manufacturer	\$10,000	\$20,000
Retailer	\$2,500	\$5,000
Wholesaler	\$5,000	\$10,000
Transporter	\$500	\$1,000
Testing facility	\$5,000	\$10,000
Delivery service	\$500	\$1,000
Cannabis event organizer	\$0	\$750
Medical cannabis combination business	\$20,000	\$70,000

Step 5: Receive a license

Upon paying the license fee, OCM will issue the pending license holder their cannabis business license and endorsement(s) through Accela. The license holder can download a digital copy of the license via Accela. The license holder must now register with Metrc to prepare for operations as established in [M.R. P. 9810.1301, subp. 1](#). The license holder is required to have a system administrator complete a Metrc training to proceed under [M.R. P. 9810.1301, subp. 4](#). The business may now begin operations upon receiving their license and endorsements for requested activities, except for retail activity, which requires local retail registration under [M.S. § 342.22, subd. 1](#) (see above for information about local retail registration).

Business resources from Minnesota state agencies

Applicants are encouraged to explore all small business development resources available across Minnesota state agencies. In addition, applicants should research local business support that may be available near them.

Type of business resource	Resources by state agency
General business support	Department of Employment and Economic Development: • Small Business Digital Toolbox • Get Connected / Do Business in Minnesota • Start & Grow Your Small Business / Do Business in Minnesota • Cannabis Industry Navigation Program (CanNavigate) • Cannabis Industry Startup Financing (CanStartup) • List of Minnesota Investors • Minnesota Business First Stop Assistance Form
Apprenticeship and dual training for cannabis workers	Department of Labor and Industry: • Legal cannabis industry
Pollution prevention and environmental regulations	Pollution Control Agency: • Small business environmental assistance Minnesota Pollution Control Agency • Cannabis businesses Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Department of Labor and Industry: • License and registration lookup
Industrial Hemp Development Act (chapter 18K)	Minnesota Department of Agriculture: • Hemp Program
Tax inquiries	Minnesota Department of Revenue: • Cannabis Tax